

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Final Office Action dated July 5, 2006. Claims 1 to 8, 15, and 18 to 21 are pending. Claims 9 to 14, 16, 17, and 22 to 31 were previously canceled. Claims 1 to 8 stand rejected, and Claims 15 and 18 to 21 stand allowed. A petition for a three-month extension of time is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

Oath/Declaration

The Office Action required a new oath or declaration, stating that “the current declaration does not list the applications upon which applicants now claim the benefit of priority . . .” As explained in a telephone conversation with Examiner Duane S. Smith on January 4, 2007, Applicants are in the process of obtaining signatures for a new declaration. As suggested by Examiner Smith, Applicants have enclosed an Application Data Sheet which identifies all of the applications upon which Applicants now claim the benefit of priority. Applicants expect to submit the new declaration by facsimile within approximately one week after the date of this Response.

Cancellation of Claims in Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.116

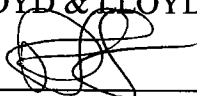
The Office Action objected to claim 1 and also rejected claims 1 to 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102/103. To advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have canceled claims 1 to 9 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the patentability of the invention defined by such canceled claims through one or more continuation or continuation-in-part applications. Through such cancellation of claims, the only standing claims are claims 15 and 18-21, those allowed by the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned if there are any issues standing in the way of the allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY



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Dated: January 4, 2007